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NEWS RELEASE

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Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced the sentencing today of Anttwaine Mandwell Dunlap, a/k/a "Twan," and a/k/a "Gotti," age 29, of Newport News, Virginia, by United States District Judge Rebecca Beach Smith, to life imprisonment plus a consecutive 60 months for his convictions of drug trafficking and related firearms offenses. On November 5, 2003, Dunlap pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute and possess with the intent to distribute in excess of 50 grams of crack cocaine; using, carrying and possessing a firearm in relation to a drug trafficking crime, and to being a felon in possession of a firearms.

On August 7, 2003, a federal grand jury in Newport News returned a 61-count superseding indictment charging Dunlap and Ktisha Mutz, age 21, a conspirator and girlfriend, with engaging in drug trafficking and firearms offenses at various locations in the East End of Newport News and in York County. Mutz pleaded guilty to maintaining a premises used to manufacture and distribute crack, by knowingly allowing Dunlap to cook powder cocaine into crack cocaine in her apartment. She is scheduled to be sentenced on March 14, 2004, by Judge Smith.

At sentencing, the Court held Dunlap responsible for the distribution of more than 95 kilograms of crack cocaine, being a leader of an extensive criminal enterprise, and obstructing justice by seeking to influence federal grand jury witnesses. The Court also took into account Dunlap's previous criminal history.

Mr. McNulty said: "The investigation and successful prosecution of this dangerous career criminal is a tribute to the hard work and commitment by the officers of the Newport News Police Department and their federal counterparts. Let today's sentence serve notice to those who rely on violence, threats and intimidation to get their way. The message is clear, a life of crime and violence will get you life in prison."

The investigation was conducted by the Violent Crimes Task Force comprised of detectives of the Newport News Police Department and agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives working closely with federal and state prosecutors. Assistant United States Attorneys Janet S. Reincke and Lisa McKeel handled the prosecution for the United States.

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